

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A discrepancy currently exists between the specification and one of the drawings. Lines 22 and 25 of page 12 refer to Fig. 2 and Fig. 2A. In the corresponding drawing, those figures are identified as Fig. 2A and 2B. A replacement drawing sheet with amended figure numbers corresponding to the language in the specification is supplied herewith.

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has provisionally rejected pending claims 1-14 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over the pending claims of co-pending Application No. 10/608,378.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

In the Office Action of December 29, 2005, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Benson (Patent 6,046,818). As discussed below, Applicants disagree that Benson teaches the claimed methods.

First, looking at the pending claims, independent claims 1 and 2 are directed to computer-implemented methods for creating an aggregated print job by selecting and assembling a plurality of separate individual print jobs into a two-dimensional arrangement with a plurality of individual print jobs in each dimension. Both claims 1 and 2 recite receiving and storing individual print jobs and associated parameters, searching those stored parameters to identify stored print jobs having common parameters, and creating an aggregate print job containing at least some of the identified individual print jobs (see, for example, page 25, line 27 to page 26, line 7).

Examples of aggregate print jobs containing a plurality of individual print jobs are depicted in Fig. 2 and 2A and discussed at page 12, lines 14-29.

Benson, by contrast, describes the prepress process of “imposition” of individual pages or other subparts within a print job. As stated in Benson at col. 1, lines 43-45, imposition is the pre-printing process of arranging the pages for a sheet to achieve the proper sequence or position of each page relative to other pages. Benson discloses a system for receiving and processing a print job, such as a book, having a potentially large number of component files, such as the individual pages of the book, that need to be properly arranged for printing on large sheets such that when the large sheets are subsequently cut and/or folded after printing, the finished product will have its component pages in the proper order (see Benson col. 1, lines 27-32).

As described in Benson at col. 8, line 47 to col. 9, line 64 and shown in Fig. 4, Benson discloses a method for receiving and processing a print job having many individual files and creating aggregate print files by assembling a plurality of individual print files in a defined physical relationship to the other individual print files. Benson teaches the use of a “job ticket” which describes how the individual component pages of a print job are to be arranged on larger sheets for printing. The job ticket includes information describing the layout of the individual pages in the print job (see col. 1, line 63 to col. 2, line 1). The general contents of a Benson job ticket are shown in Fig. 2 and described at col. 6, line 61 to col. 7, line 15. The job ticket includes a “layout tree” having a list of layout objects which define exactly where and how the various individual pages or files are to be placed on the media.

Benson is, therefore, directed to a completely different problem and makes no teaching disclosing the claimed methods. Benson discloses a method for receiving a large print job, such as a book that has many component page files, and performing imposition processing to properly arrange the component pages for printing. The

pending claims, by contrast, are directed to an method for receiving, storing, identifying, and aggregating many individual small print jobs, such as business cards or postcards, into a larger aggregate print job such that many individual unrelated print jobs can be simultaneously printed.

Turning to the Examiner's comments in applying Benson to the pending claims, it is noted that Benson only discloses aggregating subparts of a larger product. Therefore, when the Examiner states that Benson teaches the methods of claims 1 and 2, it must be assumed that the Examiner is taking the position that each individual page of a multi-page product is a "print job". Applicants find no support for this interpretation anywhere in either Benson or the pending application. The term "print job" refers specifically and exclusively to an entire product being printed, not to individual subparts of the product. In both the pending application (see, for example, page 11, line 5-6 and 14-16) and in Benson (see, for example, col. 6, lines 61-62), the term "print job" is consistently used in this manner. There is no basis in either the pending application or the cited Benson reference to interpret the term "print job" as referring to a single page of a multi-page product being printed.

Further, the Examiner stated that Benson teaches the steps of storing print jobs and associated parameters, searching the parameters to identify print jobs, and aggregating multiple individual print jobs. Again, Applicants do not see support in Benson for the Examiner's position. Regarding storage, Benson discloses temporarily storing the individual page files in file storage 25 during the execution of the imposition process by imagesetter 16 (Benson col. 8, lines 52-54; Fig. 4 at step 404), but Benson does not disclose storing the parameters associated with the print job and certainly does not teach searching stored parameters to identify a plurality of individual print jobs for aggregation, as recited in pending claims 1 and 2.

Dependent claims 3-14 are likewise considered patentable over Benson, but the following additional comments are provided regarding the Examiner's remarks relative to some dependent claims.

Dependent claim 3 recites a print job parameter indicating the delivery date of the print job. The Examiner referred to Benson col. 7, lines 16-24 as showing this feature, but the referenced section only indicates that the job ticket contains the date of the job ticket. The job ticket date is not a date of delivery of the print job to the print job customer. Further, as mentioned above, to the extent Benson teaches receiving parameters associated with a print job, those parameters are dynamically used in the Benson imposition process. Benson teaches neither the storing of those parameters nor the searching of stored parameters to identify print jobs for printing.

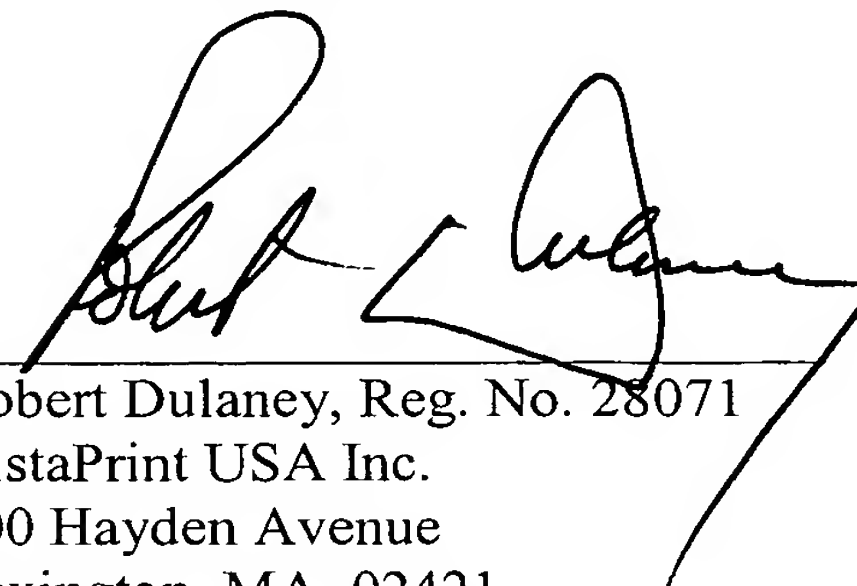
Dependent claim 5 recites a parameter indicating the print quantity of the individual print job. The Examiner cited Benson col. 6, lines 1-9 as showing this feature, but the cited section does not appear relevant. Col. 6, lines 1-9 appear to relate particularly to factors related to print quality, but not print quantity.

Dependent claim 9 recites individual print jobs received at different time and claim 10 recites individual print jobs received from different customers. The examiner cites Benson col. 5, lines 10-19 as teaching both features, but Applicant sees nothing in this passage, or elsewhere in Benson, that teaches the claimed method of receiving print jobs at different times or from different customers.

In light of the above comments, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the double patenting rejection. Favorable action and allowance of pending claims 1-14 is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a phone call would serve to advance the prosecution of this case, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Dulaney', is written over a horizontal line.

Date: March 24, 2006

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